

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04

INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 IO-04 /070 W

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R 221357Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO POUCH

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ET, ICFTU

SUBJ: LABOR SITUATION

REF: ADDIS 12245 AND 12489

1. SUMMARY: CELU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, EXPANDED TO INCLUDE DOZEN TRADE UNIONISTS FROM PROVINCIAL CENTERS, HAS DECIDED CONTINUE PROVIDE CELU POLICY DIRECTION VIA PERIODIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND NOT REPLACE DETAINED LEADERS. AS CONCESSION TO DISSIDENT COMMITTEE, THREE REPRESENTATIVES WERE SELECTED FOR AFCC CIVILIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL. KIALEMBO FROM ICFTU HAS RETURNED ADDIS AND IS ENDEAVORING SET UP HIGH LEVEL MEETING FOR SENIOR ICFTU OFFICIALS WITH MILITARY GOVERNMENT LEADERS. HIS EFFORTS APPEAR TO BE FAILING AND LIKELY HE WILL ABANDON PLAN AND AWAIT MORE PROPITIOUS TIME INTERCEDE ON BEHALF BEYENE, FISSEHA AND GHIDAY.

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2. CELU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALLED WEEKEND CONFERENCE OCTOBER 19-20 WITH TWELVE DELEGATES ADDED FROM PROVINCIAL CENTERS (ASMARA, DIRE DAWA, ASSAB, BAHIR DAR). MEETING FOCUSED ON POLICY LINES CELU SHOULD FOLLOW WHILE THREE SENIOR LEADERS STILL IN DETENTION AND ON CONCESSIONS WHICH COULD APPROPRIATELY BE MADE TO PLACATE DISSIDENT COMMITTEE LED BY GETACHEW AMARE AND THUS AVOID SPLIT. AGREEMENT REACHED THAT DETAINED OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE REPLACED BUT THAT CELU DIRECTIVES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE IN PERIODIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS. PROVINCIAL DELEGATES MADE IT CLEAR THEY WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH DISSIDENT COMMITTEE AND GAVE SUPPORT TO LEADERSHIP OF CELU HEADQUARTERS BY ALEM AND TESFA.

3. AS CONCESSION TO DISSIDENTS, SESSION AGREED TO PROCEED WITH SELECTION OF THREE LEADERS TO REPRESENT CELU ON CIVILIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL BEING FORMED BY AFCC. FOLLOWING CHOSEN: DAGNACHEW ELLALA, PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIAN COTTON COMPANY EMPLOYEES UNION, DIRE DAWA; ABRAHAM GEBRE, TREASURER OF CELU AND WORKER MEMBER LABOR RELATIONS BOARD; DR. TSEGAYE AGA, PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIAN INSURANCE COMPANY EMPLOYEES. TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO AFCC ALSO CONTAINED PLEA FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES ON GROUNDS CELU RESOLUTION OF SEPTEMBER 16 WHICH CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WAS DECISION OF ENTIRE GENRAL ASSEMBLY, NOT POLICY POSITION FOR WHICH DETAINED CELU OFFICIALS SHOULD BE SOLELY OR INDIVIDUALLY HELD RESPONSIBLE.

4. KIALEMBO FROM ICFTU BRUSSELS REAPPEARED IN ADDIS OCTOBER 18 AND IS TRYING ARRANGE HIGH LEVEL MEETING WITH AFCC. REPORTEDLY, CYRIL PLANT OF BRITISH TUC AND MUHR OF DGB ARE AWAITING CALL TO COME TO ADDIS. KIALOMBO UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE REQUESTED OTTO KERSTE, ICFTU SEC GEN, TO APPROACH GEORGE MEANY AND ASK FOR SENIOR AMERICAN TRADE UNIONIST TO JOIN IN APPROACH TO AFCC. NO APPOINTMENT HAS YET BEEN ARRANGED AND APPEARS UNLIKELY ANY WILL BE GIVEN. KIALEMBO NOW SAYS HE WILL CALL VENTURE OFF IF HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT FAIL IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

5. DEPT. PLEASE PASS FOREGOING INFORMATION TO AALC/NEW YORK. SEBASTIAN

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AALC/NEW YORK.

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